

Message Text

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15

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5438

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0721

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA'S VIEWS ON AFRICAN ISSUES
AND RELATIONS WITH U.S.

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA TOLD AMB THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN THE PAIGC/PORTUGUESE TALKS IN LONDON; HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER PAIGC WOULD AGREE EXCLUDE CAPE VERDE ISLAND ISSUE FROM IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT. PRES KHAMA THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR FRELIMO TO REJECT AN OFFER OF CEASE-FIRE AND REFERENDUM. BECAUSE OF FLUID SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE, PRES DID NOT FEEL THE OAU SUMMIT SHOULD TAKE A POSITION AT THIS STAGE. HE WAS VERY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND HOPEFUL FOR A SETTLEMENT BASED ON MAJORITY RULE. SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT REACT TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION FROM TAIWAN; GOB WILL
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EVENTUALLY CONSIDER ESTABLISHING RESIDENT DIP RELATIONS WITH

THE SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST CHINA. FINALLY, THE PRES WAS APPRECIATIVE FOR U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR MORE PRIVATE AMERICAN INVESTMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ONE-HOUR CONVERSATION 4JUN, PRESIDENT SIRE SERETSE KHAMA MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR:

A. GUINEA-BISSAU

THE PRESIDENT SAID PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN TALKS BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE AND THE PAIGC IN LONDON. HE UNDERSTOOD A SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT INVOLVING A CEASE-FIRE AND REFERENDUM; HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE PAIGC WOULD BE WILLING TO POSTPONE SETTLEMENT OF THE CAPE VERDE ISSUE.

B. MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT NOTED THE SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE WAS VERY FLUID. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE OAU SUMMIT TO TAKE A POSITION AT THIS STAGE. PRESIDENT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR FRELIMO TO REJECT A SETTLEMENT BASED ON A CEASE-FIRE AND REFERENDUM ALONG LINES OF THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO. HE INDICATED THAT FRELIMO MIGHT TAKE A HARD LINE IN TALKS WITH SOARES BEGINNING JUNE 5. THE ATTITUDE OF SOME FRELIMO LEADERS WAS THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD BORNE THE BRUNT OF THE BATTLE WHICH HAD BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE AFRICA; THEREFORE, FRELIMO SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ANY SETTLEMENT. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE SITUATION WAS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT SOME AFRICAN STATES, UNLIKE BOTSWANA, SUPPORTED NOTION ONE-PARTY REGIMES. THESE STATES COULD SEE NO REASON WHY POWER SHOULD NOT BE TURNED OVER TO FRELIMO. THE PRESIDENT LEFT NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT HE FAVORED A CEASE-FIRE AND REFERENDUM LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE. ANY OTHER SOLUTION WOULD INCREASE INSTABILITY AND MIGHT CONCEIVABLY LEAD TO A CONGO-TYPE SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE. PRESIDENT DID NOT THINK SOUTH AFRICA WOULD INTERVENE.

C. SOUTHERN RHODESIA/SOUTH AFRICA

PRESIDENT KHAMA SHOWED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND HOPED SOLUTION COULD BE WORKED OUT BASED ON MAJORITY RULE. HE WAS VERY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT POSSIBLE INCREASE IN SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA. HE ASSUMED SOUTH AFRICA WOULD WANT SOME KIND OF SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELUCTANT TO TAKE STEPS WHICH COULD ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

D. COMMUNIST CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION

PRESIDENT SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT REACTED TO THE GOB DECISION TO WITHDRAW RECOGNITION FROM THE TAIWAN REGIME. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICANS FULLY EXPECTED SUCH GOB ACTION. PRESIDENT KHAMA SAID GOB HAD NOT CONSIDERED ESTABLISHING RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC AND

SOVIET UNION BUT WOULD PROBABLY DO SO EVENTUALLY. THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE SOVIET UNION, PRIOR TO AND SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, HAD PROVIDED SUPPORT INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES IN BOTSWANA. THE PRESIDENT IMPLIED THAT BOTSWANA RECOGNIZED THE SOVIET UNION IN ORDER TO PUT SUCH ACTIVITIES ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS RATHER THAN ON A PARTY BASIS. HE REVEALED THAT BOTSWANA HAD TEN STUDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION THEMA WAS PRESENTLY VISITING THE USSR.

E. AID, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

PRESIDENT KHAMA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF UNITED STATES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION AMBASSADOR TOLD THE PRESIDENT WE COULD NOT BE HOPEFUL THAT ADDITIONAL AID ASSISTANCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE NATA-KAZANGULU LINK OF THE BOT-ZAM ROAD BASED ON NEW TRAFFIC DATA. AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW U.S. OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO ATTRACT PRIVATE AMERICAN CAPITAL.

PRESIDENT KHAMA SAID HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN AMERICAN PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE WANTED AMERICAN COMPANIES TO ESTABLISH MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN BOTSWANA TO PRODUCE PRODUCTS FOR SALE BOTH IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNCON AND IN MARKETS IN BLACK AFRICA; HE NOTED THAT THE GOB WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN ATTRACTING PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR "MUTUAL BENEFIT". THE AMBASSADOR URGED PRESIDENT TO HOLD THE LINE AGAINST THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON THE REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE. HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT BOTSWANA NEEDED TO PREPARE INVESTMENT BROCHURES, PROVIDE MORE INCENTIVES, INCREASE PROMOTION EFFORT AND PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY

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POTENTIAL AMERICAN INVESTORS.
BOLEN

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